

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended). A transition section for a forward end of a threshing region of an agricultural combine, for receiving crop material ~~feed~~ fed into the threshing region, comprising:

a unitary metal sheet spin formed so as to have a smooth, seamless and hardened frusto-conical shape inner surface portion extending convergingly toward the forward end of the threshing region.

Claim 2 (cancelled).

Claim 3 (original). The transition section of claim 1 further comprising an outwardly extending annular lip around a larger forward end of the transition section.

Claim 4 (original). The transition section of claim 1 wherein the metal sheet has a thickness of at least about 4 millimeters.

Claim 5 (currently amended). ~~In an~~ An agricultural combine, comprising in combination, an elongate generally cylindrical rotor casing defining a forward threshing region, the forward threshing region being provided with a ~~funnel-like~~ frusto-conical shape transition section for endwise reception of crop material, and a rotor disposed within said casing in substantially coaxial relationship and substantially coextensive therewith for rotation therein, ~~an improvement comprising~~ the transition section being seamless and hardened by being spin formed from a unitary metal sheet.

Claim 6 (cancelled).

Claim 7 (currently amended). ~~In the~~ The agricultural combine of claim 5 ~~6, the frusto-conical transition section~~ including an integrally formed radially outwardly extending rim around a forward end thereof.

Claim 8 (currently amended). A transition section for a forward end of a threshing section of an agricultural combine, for receiving crop material fed into the

threshing section, the transition section being formed by a process comprising a step of spin forming a single metal sheet so as to have a seamless and hardened frusto-conical shape inner surface portion.

Claim 9 (cancelled).